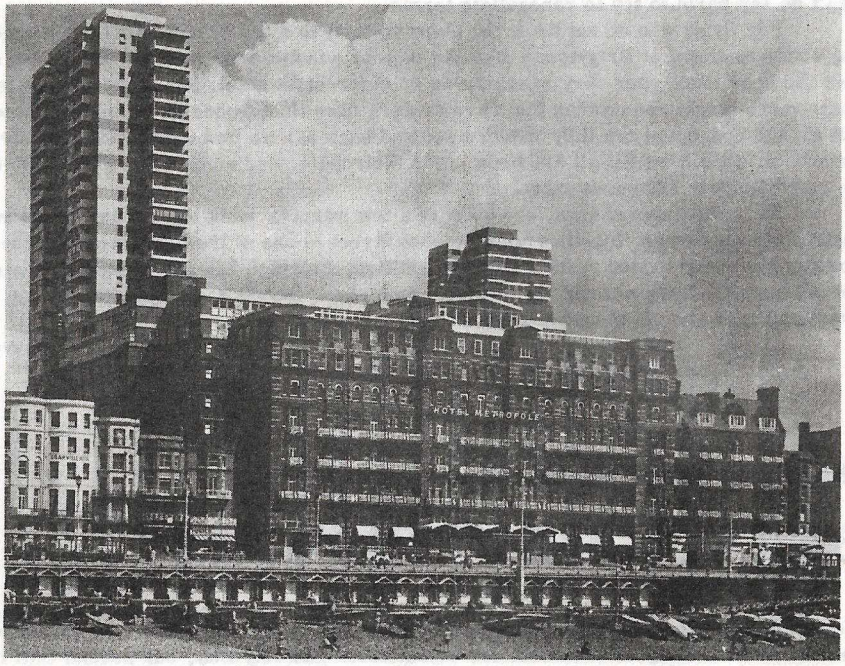
BIG REDUCTIONS IN ROOM RATES!

CHANNELCON

THE 1982 BRITISH EASTER SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

Progress Report 1 *June 1981*



The Metropole Hotel, Brighton

ANGELA CARTER SECOND GoH!

ROOM RATES REDUCED!

For all those of you who are frantically stuffing pennies into your piggy banks in readiness for Channelcon — stop at once. After further discussions with the Metropole Hotel we have managed to negotiate even lower room rates than those announced at Yorcon. The new rates will be:

£13.50 per night for a single room
£12.50 per person per night for a double/twin room

(The previously announced rates were £16.00 per person per night in any sort of room.) And remember, these prices include buffet English breakfast but will be subject to VAT (the Metropole do not charge Service).

As far as I know, this is the first time recently that a Committee has been able to renegotiate a price with a hotel once one has been fixed. Not that we are blowing our own trumpet, but it might be a point for future committees to remember. Once the bid has been won, you are in a much better bargaining position than beforehand, so it can't do any harm to try to renegotiate terms.

For those who do not know the Metropole, it is a beautiful Victorian hotel standing on the seafront at Brighton — look out of your window and watch the West Pier sink into the sea before your very eyes! Being an older-style hotel, it has the advantage of many more single rooms than the more modern ones Eastercons have used in the past, but all 332 bedrooms are fully modernised and each has its own colour TV and private bathroom. Should we fill all 580 beds in the Metropole, her sister hotel, the Bedford, is approximately 100 yards away.

As to the general area, the hotel is a few minutes' walk away from Brighton's main shopping centre, together with Preston Street — one of the best streets in the country for cheap varied restaurants. In addition, Brighton has numerous pubs catering for all tastes — but you must try the local real ale — Harveys — brewed at Lewes. Not that I'm in the slightest bit biased!

— Eve Harvey

And yet another scoop:

SECOND GUEST OF HONOUR!

Yes, following hard on the heels of Seacon and Yorcon II, we are proud to announce that we have two Guests of Honour for Channelcon. Not only that, our second GoH is a scoop in herself, since she has been neither GoH nor ever been to a British convention.

So we are pleased to announce that ***ANGELA CARTER*** will be making her debut, with ***JOHN SLADEK*** at Channelcon — and we not only thank them both, but hope they have as good a time as we all intend having!

— Eve Harvey

JOHN SLADEK

Three of us sat around a bare table in a bare room. We were discussing a story I had written. The first person said some things that were trite, obvious, petty — they might have tidied up the story but they would not have made any significant improvement in it. The second didn't say much, but what he did say seemed to me impossible.

Some weeks later, walking down the street, I suddenly understood what he had been getting at, I saw how I could make the changes, and I knew it would improve the story no end.

The place was the Lumb Bank Science Fiction Writers' Workshop some summers ago; the second person was John Sladek.

I remember the day I arrived at this remote Yorkshire farmhouse being introduced to someone: "Oh, and this is John." I nodded to what I thought was a fellow student, and wondered when we'd get to meet the tutors. To those of you who tend to get mental images of what "a writer" should look like, I warn you now: John Sladek looks less like a writer than anyone I've ever met.

But don't let the appearance deceive you; John Sladek is one hell of a writer. Don't take my word for it; you can find out how good he is simply by going away and reading — his novels, for instance, like The Muller-Fokker Effect or the recent Roderick; or his collaborations with Thomas Disch; or his superb parodies in The Steam-Driven Boy; or his hilariously damning examination of fringe cults in The New Apocrypha; or his detective novels like Black Aura; or his many excellent short stories; or....

But this is not a catalogue. Still less is it a piece of literary criticism. If you want to find out about Sladek the writer it is easy to get hold of copies of his books. No, I'm supposed to be introducing Sladek the Guest of Honour, the person you're going to be meeting when you get to Channelcon.

However, the writing does provide some clue to the man. If nothing else, titles like Keep the Giraffes Burning and "Elephant with a Wooden Leg" indicate a sense of humour, and I'm sure we'll be the beneficiaries of his wit at Brighton. He is good company; I remember him at Lumb Bank passing the wine bottles around with the rest of us. And he is easy to talk to; all you have to do is go up to him and say hello. It might help if you are pressing something alcoholic into his hand, but that probably isn't absolutely necessary.

In short, I think we can look forward to a damned good Guest of Honour. Look out for his speech; it is sure to be one of the high spots of the convention. And look out for him in the bar and at the room parties. I've enjoyed the times I've spent in the company of John Sladek — I think you will, too.

— Paul Kincaid

ANGELA CARTER

We are delighted to be able to announce that our co-Guest of Honour at Channelcon is to be Angela Carter.

Angela Carter is one of those rare writers who have succeeded in using the freedom of the fantastic without being labelled a genre writer. She has managed to transcend the barriers that all too often cut science fiction off from the rest of liter-

ature, winning accolades from many diverse quarters. Her second novel, The Magic Toyshop, won the prestigious John Llewelyn Rhys Memorial Prize, and she won the Somerset Maugham Award for Several Perceptions in 1968.

Brian Aldiss and Harry Harrison recognised her worth as a writer of science fiction by including a story of hers, "The Executioner's Beautiful Daughter", in one of their Year's Best SF collections, no. 8. Many of you will have enjoyed the BBC radio play "Vampirella", broadcast some years ago, without realising who the author was.

Those of you who have encountered Heroes and Villains (recently reprinted in paperback), The Infernal Desire Machines of Doctor Hoffman, The Passion of New Eve or the collection Fireworks will need no introduction to Ms. Carter. For the rest of you, we hope at last to introduce you to an excellent writer who perhaps hasn't enjoyed the recognition she so richly deserves within sf.

If you haven't read any of her books, you have a treat in store; her books are rich in Gothic imagery and erotic undertones that make them a very enjoyable read. If you haven't met her — and few of you will have, since this is her very first science fiction convention — you have an even bigger treat in store. She is lively and amusing in person, as those of you who saw her recently on Terry Jones's Paperbacks will know. We hope you will make her welcome.

— The Committee

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Programme

Well, this is the time of the year when we are regularly promised more of the same and maybe a few surprises. This year I'm not going to be making any promises. There will be a few panels, but I'm looking for alternatives to the usual panel format. I'm also hoping that the subjects of these panels, and other programme items, will be a little different from usual.

I do have one or two ideas already, but mostly I'm at your mercy. After all, you're the ones who are going to be sitting in the audience. What do you want to see? If you want the same old things, then tell me. If you have some ideas for something new, then tell me also. With luck, between us, we should come up with a great programme.

Films for Channelcon are in the very capable hands of Rochelle Reynolds, and again we will be happy to receive any suggestions you care to make.

So what is going to be on the programme? There will be films, talks by our Guests of Honour John Sladek and Angela Carter, and I dare say we'll be able to tempt other writers up onto the platform in one item or another — though what that item will be is up to you, isn't it?

One more thing: there is going to be a quiz. In fact I'm planning to find out which of you is a science fiction Mastermind. If you think you know all there is to know about sf, then let me know right away so there is time to have questions set on your specialist subject.

If you have any ideas about what you would like to see on the programme, or you want to enter for Mastermind, my address is: 114 Guildhall St., Folkestone, Kent CT20 1ES.

— Paul Kincaid

Fancy Dress

Do you remember the fancy dress parties at cons several years ago, when <u>everyone</u> dressed up and a good time was had by all? At Channelcon we are hoping to recreate this atmosphere, partly by coaxing (or bullying) as many people as possible into fancy dress.

You don't need A level Needlework, Golden Hands or six pounds of sequins to make a costume, and you don't have to enter the competition if you don't want to. Just make the effort to come in fancy dress of some kind and really make the evening go with a swing.

For those of you who do wish to enter the competition there will be about six prizes for the judges to award at their own discretion (or lack of it). The more entries the merrier, however minimal, extravagant, complicated, simple, humorous or just plain daft they may be. If anyone has any enquiries, including special sound effects, lighting etc. please contact me: Anne Page, 11 Manor Farm Road, Greet, Birmingham B11 2HT.

Entry forms will be available later, and early entry would be appreciated but is not vital. Entries will be accepted up to lunchtime on the day.

Remember — the fancy dress <u>party</u> doesn't have to be mere fannish nostalgia — it's up to you. You have the technology, you can revive it!

— Anne Page

Fan Room

Those of you who were at the bidding session at Yorcon may remember me babbling inanely about my plans for the Channelcon fan room. I don't think I put it over too well, so this (hopefully) is a slightly more coherent and elaborate version of what I said then.

Basically, what I want to do is put on a display with the theme: The Fannish Year – Eastercon to Eastercon. This would cover as many events as possible occurring between Yorcon and Channelcon which would be of fannish interest... conventions, parties, outings, marriages, births, the lot. This would be broken down on a month to month basis, giving everything at least a mention and, at best, providing written reports and photographic coverage of major events. Obviously, this is a large undertaking and since I'm stuck away up here in the land of instant porridge and ten gallon kilts I'm looking for help...

I'm looking for volunteers to write reports on the various conventions being held in Britain throughout the year. Ideally, these should be kept to one side of an A4 page and not be published elsewhere. And if you're planning to take photographs, can I borrow some prints for display purposes? These will be returned. These requests also apply to coverage of things like Tenth Anniversary parties or Anglo-American marriages and suchlike. If you think you can be of help, please contact me at the address below.

If you see any snippets concerning SF fans or silly stories about SF in general, in the national or regional press, could you send me a cutting? I'm particularly interested in the "Way Out Sci-Fi Guys" type of story, and unlikely stories concerning people with names not dissimilar to well-known SF fans.

If you or your fan group publish a fanzine, could you please send me a copy or make sure a committee member gets one? Just like the British Library, I'd like to display a copy of every zine published in Britain during the period. There is also a possibility that we'll be producing a Fanzine Index for 1981-82 and we'd like it as complete as possible.

I have various bits and pieces of the fan room programme in the works but I'm always on the lookout for comments, criticisms, suggestions. Is there anything from recent conventions you'd like to see repeated or avoided? Again, please get in touch. Volunteers to participate on programme items will be looked on with great favour.

If you can help with any of the above, please contact me at: 113 Windsor Road, Falkirk, Stirlingshire FK1 5DB, Central Scotland. Telephone 0324 24959 (office hours) or 0324 35452 (after six).

— Jim Barker

The Committee

Since the Committee are a shy, retiring, modest bunch, they have asked me to sing their praises and wow you all with their skill and experience. Well, let's say the hardest thing in the world must be to write something about yourself.

In alphabetical order:

CHRIS ATKINSON — Book Room

Chris is one of those people who is rarely in the limelight of fandom, but is always in the wings to give invaluable help and advice etc. She is uniquely qualified to organise the bookroom since she has seen it from both sides — as a purchaser, cursing and swearing because the gangways are too congested, and as a book dealer, cursing and swearing about whatever they curse and swear about.

JIM BARKER — Fan Room

Jim, too, has seen the fanroom from more than one aspect — and I don't mean from underneath the table. Not only has he been a very important contributor to past fan rooms, but also Fan Guest of Honour at Albacon. We have every confidence that his fanroom at Channelcon will be as novel as his artwork — as long as we can keep him from the plastic bin liners and balloon gas!

PAT CHARNOCK — Memberships

Pat is one of those people who just don't know when to stop. Having taken over the job of Membership Secretary for Seacon because I found it too much, she now wants to do it again. Well, who are we to stop her — if she can cope so excellently with 5,000+ for Seacon, Channelcon will be superbly arranged.

EVE HARVEY — Chairman

As I said, writing about yourself is extremely difficult. You will be able to recognise me at the convention; I'll be the one with fingernails chewed up to the shoulders, instigating the fannish tradition of "See the Chairman, buy her a drink."

CORAL JACKSON — Publications

Coral, like so many of the Committee, was involved in Seacon, helping to organise the Fancy Dress. Now, with the help of her daughter Dulcie, her perfectionist streak is being let loose on our publications. Since we are no better than anyone else on keeping to deadlines, her patience is going to be one of her most important assets.

PAUL KINCAID — Programme

Paul is our "serious" Committee member. He has not only appeared in print in fanzines, including his own Tripe Pickers' Journal, but also in the BSFA's Vector as SF critic, reviewer and Features Editor. As such, we feel he is eminently suitable to organise the main and alternate programme which, if his draft ideas succeed, should not only be interesting but different.

JANICE MAULE — Treasurer

You can recognise Janice at any fannish gathering — she's the one holding out her hand calling "money, anyone want to give me money?" As a qualified accountant and Treasurer for the BSFA, who else could we consider to handle our money — although I get worried about the gleam in her eye as she counts the contents of the cash box.

SUB-COMMITTEE

Rochelle Reynolds — Films
Anne Page — Fancy Dress
Linda Pickersgill — Advertising

— Eve Harvey

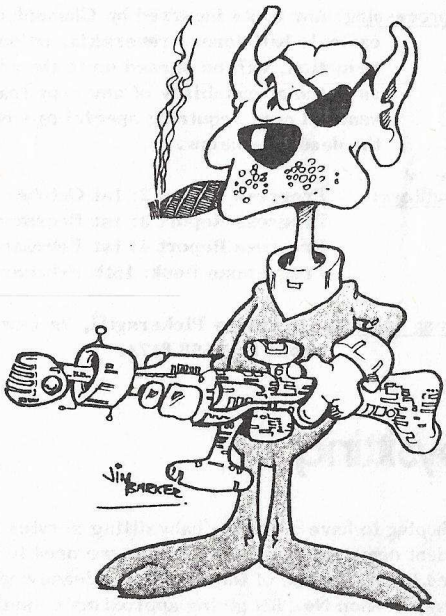
The Progress Reports are edited by Coral Jackson. Sub-editing, copy typing, headings and layout are by Rob Jackson.

Channelcon Members *as at 24.5.81*

A = Attending S = Supporting

1 John Sladek (A)
2 Angela Carter (A)
5 Eve Harvey (A)
6 John Harvey (A)
7 Chris Atkinson (A)
8 Malcolm Edwards (A)
9 Jim Barker (A)
11 Pat Charnock (A)
12 Graham Charnock (A)
13 Coral Jackson (A)
14 Robert Jackson (A)
15 Paul Kincaid (A)
17 Janice Maule (A)
18 Ian Maule (A)
19 Linda Pickersgill (A)
20 Rochelle Reynolds (A)
21 Simon Rudyk (A)
22 Barbara Rudyk (A)
23 Ian Williams (A)
24 Robert Day (A)
25 Ian Sheppard (A)
26 Howard Rosenblum (A)
27 Colin Fine (A)
28 Marcus L. Rowland (S)
29 Vernon Brown (S)
30 Pat Brown (S)
31 Steven Lawson (A)
32 Owen Whiteoak (A)
33 Jose Bernard (A)
34 Tim Illingworth (A)
35 Arnold Akien (A)
36 Hans Loose (A)
37 Jan Veldhoen (A)
38 Kev Smith (A)
39 Roberta Gray (A)
40 Roger Robinson (A)
41 Mark Craske (A)
42 Joseph Nicholas (A)
43 Steve Green (A)
44 Dave Ellis (A)
45 Jeanne-Marie Feron (A)
46 Michel Feron (A)
47 Yvonne Jenkins (S)
48 John Meaney (S)
49 Stan Eling (A)
50 Helen Eling (A)
51 Simon Beresford (S)
52 Roy Macinski (A)
53 Nick Trant (A)
54 Catherine McAulay (A)
55 Martin Hoare (A)
56 Michael Damesick (A)
57 Paul C. Wilson (A)
58 Roger Perkins (A)
59 Peter Weston (A)
60 John Steward (A)
61 Kate Jeary (S)
62 Paul Dormer (A)
63 Allan Simmons (A)
64 Dave Langford (A)
65 Hazel Langford (A)
66 Paul Vincent (A)
67 Peter Wareham (A)
68 Brian Hampton (A)
69 Joy Hibbert (S)
70 Dave Rowley (S)
71 David Green (S)
72 Peter Roberts (A)
73 Neil J. Mackie (S)
74 Lars Strandberg (A)
75 Kjell Borgström (S)
76 Frank R. Smith (S)
77 John Stewart (A)
78 William D. Anderson (S)
79 Henry Balen (S)
80 Sue Williams (A)
81 Kev Williams (A)
82 John Fairey (A)
83 Peter Mabey (A)
84 Sue Richardson (A)
85 Neil Hepple (A)
86 Harry Bell (A)
87 Pat Meara (S)
88 Mike Meara (S)
89 Mike Ford (S)
90 Pete Lyon (A)
91 Ewan Chrystal (A)
92 Ron Bennett (S)
93 Andrew Bennett (S)
94 Paul Thorley (S)
95 Derek Holt (S)
96 Alan Blackley (S)
97 Derek Atkins (S)
98 Josh Kirby (A)
99 Brian Smith (A)
100 Andrew Stephenson (A)
101 D.H. Row (S)
102 Chris Davenport (A)
103 Geoff Rippington (S)
104 R. Earnshaw (A)
105 Graham James (A)
106 Linda James (A)
107 Airasa James (A)
108 Jeff Suter (A)
109 Mic Rogers (A)
110 Andrew W. Robertson (A)
111 Kathy Westhead (A)
112 Mike Westhead (A)
113 Stephen Coffin (A)
114 Ken Slater (A)
115 Joyce Slater (A)
116 Dave G. Thomas (A)
117 Pauline Morgan (A)
118 Chris Morgan (A)
119 John D. Nixon (S)
120 Chris Lewis (A)
121 Mary J. Burns (A)
122 Bill Burns (A)
123 ½R Cruttenden (A)
124 Wendy Cruttenden (S)
125 Urban Gunnarsson (S)
126 Bjorn Larsson (S)
127 Mickey Poland (A)
128 Julian Headlong (A)
129 Simon Ounsley (A)
130 Jim Darroch (A)
131 Caroline Mullan (A)
132 John Dallman (A)
133 Dai Price (A)
134 Mike Scantlebury (S)
135 Ye Gerbish (A)
136 Martin Svensson (S)
137 Chris Boyce (A)
138 Paul Oldroyd (A)
139 Christine Donaldson (A)

140 Charles Partington (A)
141 Eric Rowe (S)
142 Bob Jewett (S)
143 George Bondar (A)
144 George F. Ternent (S)
145 Ian W. Moor (S)
146 Lisanne Norman (S)
147 Stuart Andrews (S)
148 Linda Bagley (S)
149 Chris Priest (A)
150 Lisa Tuttle (A)
151 Graham England (A)
152 Gerry Webb (S)
153 Samuel McKay (S)
154 Dave Garnett (A)
155 Frances Jobling (A)
156 Chris Jordan (A)
157 Lesley Ward (A)
158 Wendy Glover (A)
159 Andrew Richardson (A)
160 Marion van der Voort (A)
161 Richard van der Voort (A)
162 Tony Rogers (A)
163 John Olsen (S)
164 Edward Ward (A)
165 Rory O. McLean (A)
166 David Swinden (A)
167 Jimmy Robertson (A)
168 Tibs (A)
169 Joan Paterson (A)
170 Mike Walshe (A)
171 Alison Cook (A)
172 John Wilkes (A)
173 Chris Bursey (A)
174 Tony Berry (A)
175 Anthony Johnston (A)
176 Pete Garratt (A)
177 Susie Forth (S)
178 Simone Walsh (S)
179 Rob Hansen (S)
180 Aandi Inston (A)
181 Phil Palmer (A)
182 Martin Hatfield (A)
183 Margaret Austin (A)
184 John Brosnan (A)
185 John Foster (A)
186 John Stainton (A)
187 Peter B. Bell (S)
188 Nic Howard (A)
189 Joanne Lewis (A)
190 Les Chester (A)
191 June McGaw (A)
192 Marjorie Sachs (A)
193 John Jarrold (A)
194 Richard Brandshaft (A)
195 Martin Easterbrook (A)
196 John Lowe (S)
197 Bob Shaw (the real) (A)
198 Sadie Shaw (A)
199 Jo Thomas (A)
200 Frank v d Waart (S)
201 Christian Lehmann (A)
202 Tony Chester (A)
203 Val Steel (A)
204 Duncan Steel (A)
205 Mary Gentle (A)
206 Sylvia Block (A)



CHANNEL CON

Advertising Rates

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Progress Reports:	Back cover	£20.00	£20.00
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	Quarter page	£7.00	£4.00
Programme Book:	Back cover	£40.00	£40.00
	Full page	£33.00	£20.00
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	Quarter page	£12.00	£8.00

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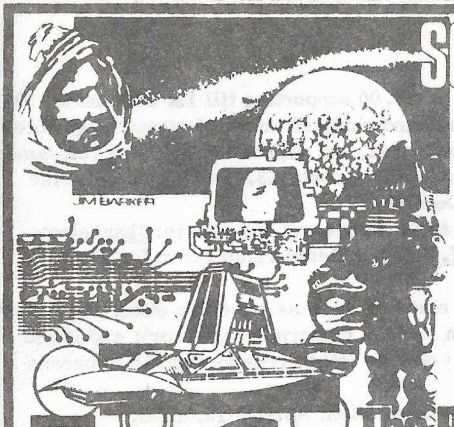
Copy deadlines: Progress Report 2: 1st October 1981
Progress Report 3: 1st December 1981
Progress Report 4: 1st February 1982
Programme Book: 15th February 1982

Advertising enquiries to: Linda Pickersgill, 7a Lawrence Road, Ealing, London W5. Phone (01) 568 8174.

Babysitting

We are hoping to have a creche/babysitting service available at the convention if there is sufficient demand to warrant it. This we need to know well in advance, so if you are interested in making use of this service, please contact Chris Atkinson, 28 Duckett Rd., Harringay, London N4 1BN giving approximate details if possible (e.g. daytime only, Saturday evening, etc.).



SCIENCE FICTION FAN?

The British Science Fiction Association is an organisation for anyone interested in SF

The Association regularly produces:

VECTOR – a journal about SF with reviews, articles, interviews and letters.

MATRIX – a forum for members with news, informal articles and letters.

FOCUS – a writers' workshop magazine with articles, queries and market news.

The Association provides many services, including the world's largest SF lending library, with over 3000 books a magazine chain from which all the leading American publications can be borrowed an SF enquiry service to help in answering your queries on science fiction

Membership costs only £8 a year, or you can try a sample mailing first, containing Vector, Matrix, etc., for £1 (deductable from cost of membership if you join)

If writers such as Aldiss, Brunner, Clarke, Coney, Cowper Harrison Holdstock, LeGuin, Priest, Shaw, Watson and White (to drop a few names) think it's worth being members, perhaps you will, too.

bsfa

The British Science Fiction Association

Further details from:
The Membership Secretary, Sandy Brown
18 Gordon Terrace, Blantyre, G72
Lanarkshire, Scotland

President: Arthur C. Clarke

Membership Rates

Channelcon membership is £6.00 attending or £3.00 supporting till 1st December 1981. Presupporting members get a £1.00 discount, and children under 12 attend free. After 1st December 1981, attending membership will rise, but supporting will stay the same. Conversion from supporting to attending membership costs £3.00 now, but will rise along with attending membership after 1st December.

Cheques and PO's should be payable to "Channelcon" and sent to: Channelcon, 4 Fletcher Road, Chiswick, London W4 5AY. See the Membership Form for further details.

Please let us know if we've got your name or address wrong on either the list of members or the mailing label (unless it's an obvious typographical error); and if you change your address please let us know, or you may fail to receive further Progress Reports or your booking form.

Finally, a reminder of the date of the convention: April 9-12, 1982.

— Pat Charnock